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Higher Wire Rates, Lower Service.

For the general public the disturbing thing about Postmaster-General BUREAU'S increase of telegraph rates by 20 per cent. is not the mere millions of dollars this particular jump will cost private pockets.

A very small proportion of our population uses the telegraph service to any extent worth mentioning. Industrial plants, business houses, the branches of the Government itself send messages over the wires by the thousands of words a day and day out. The heavier tolls will mean a pretty penny for them. Perhaps not one individual in a hundred uses the telegraph more than once a month. The American people as a whole, therefore, will not feel directly this new burden of Government operation.

But wait for the rest!

For the whole American people the alarming, the harrowing thing is the tens of millions of dollars which Postmaster-General BUREAU undoubtedly will pile next upon the country's telephone bills. Everybody uses the telephone. Everybody accordingly is going to be hit by the new telephone rates when they rain down upon the helpless public from that merciless airplane destroyer of incomes, Government operation.

It is only fair to the Postmaster-General to take him at his word that increased expenses, chiefly labor, amount fully to the increased charges. But it is only fair to the public to remind him that the one big promise of Government operation was that it could do things so much more cheaply and efficiently than anybody else that its savings of operation would take care of such natural expense increases as wages and at the same time give a better service.

It is only fair to the managers of private operation to recall that, whether the cost of materials rose little or much, whether wages just climbed up or shot up, government authority, national, State or local, kept railroad rates, telegraph rates, telephone rates under private operation nailed down hard and fast.

It is only fair to truth itself to bear witness that, while rates under private operation were held motionless, the service was made to grow better and better; but while the rates under Government operation soar ever higher and higher the service sinks lower and lower.

The touch of Government operation in business is the touch of death.

The Sleeping Amendment.

Senator Goss supplies to the public a sensation akin to that which a citizen feels when he discovers a five dollar bill in last year's waistcoat. The Oklahoma has disintegrated, living, from its archival tomb an amendment to the Constitution which Congress presented to the States in 1810 and which the States have not ratified. It is this:

"If any citizen of the United States shall accept, claim, receive or retain any title of nobility or honor, or shall without the consent of Congress accept and retain any present, pension, office or emolument of any kind whatever from any emperor, king, prince or foreign Power, such person shall cease to be a citizen of the United States and shall be incapable of holding any office of trust or profit under or in either of them."

This proposed amendment was designed to be a rigorous substitute for that paragraph of the ninth section of Article I, which provides that no citizen holding any Federal office of profit or trust shall, without the consent of the Congress, "accept of any present, emolument, office or title of any kind whatever from any King, Prince or foreign State."

As Senator Goss says, the amendment was intended to put teeth in the Constitution, Congress realizing that other Congresses might be weak. The Congress of 1809-1810 laid the new law before the people; and there it is, unaccepted and forgotten, but still pulsating.

We have to confess to Senator Goss, who remarks that the amendment failed of ratification by one State, that New York was one of the guilty.

She and haughty little Rhode Island, perhaps through the machinations of citizens who longed for peace, rejected the amendment. Connecticut, Vermont and South Carolina did nothing at all about the matter. Twelve States ratified, but thirteen were needed. So the amendment went to sleep for a century and a decade. Whatever the merits or the necessity of the amendment, wouldn't it be well to keep it for a rainy day? The country has a lot to talk about just now and there may be years to come, years of oratorical famine, when this amendment would be just the thing for discussion on the stump and by the fireside. Meanwhile every good man will firmly resolve, Constitution or no Constitution, not to let any foreign potentate or Power attach a name to his name.

Barnard College.

The services performed by Barnard College, in promoting the higher education of women, are so well known that the friends of the institution are certain to meet a prompt response in the task which they have now set themselves of raising the sum of \$275,000 for its benefit.

Of this amount \$100,000 is to complete the endowment fund of \$1,000,000 established in 1914 in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the college, and \$175,000 is to pay off accumulated indebtedness. The money for both of these purposes must be available by July 1 next to meet the conditions of a gift of \$200,000 to the endowment fund promised by the General Education Board.

If any reason for providing this sum of \$275,000 were needed in addition to the reasons supplied by what Barnard has done, both directly and indirectly, for the women of America, it would be found in the manner in which college educated women met the test of war. Secretary of War BAKER, Miss ELIZABETH K. ADAMS, chief of the collegiate section of the Department of Labor, and other persons in a position to render accurate judgment in the matter agree that the work done by college women was exceptionally high in quality; that they were an important factor in filling the gap caused by the presence in France of so many young men, and that "college women responded magnificently to the country's call." It was especially noted that college women were more adaptable than the average, more capable of organizing and being organized, and quicker at picking up the technique of a new activity.

Under these circumstances, as a recognition of the services of both Barnard College to education and of college women to their country, the public will doubtless agree that the money asked for should be raised quickly.

There is a Third Possibility.

The subjoined thought and the accompanying prediction are to be found in the esteemed editorial columns of our neighbor the World:

"It is already certain from the march of events that there will be a League of Nations. If it is not Wilson's league it will be LENIN'S league."

On further reflection it may occur to the World that its alternative is not watertight.

If there is a League of Nations of which the United States is a member the possibility is considerable that it will be neither Wilson's league nor LENIN'S league, but a league shaped and limited by the only body constitutionally authorized to engage by treaty the future policy of this nation, namely, the Senate of the United States.

The Hungarian-German Alliance.

A despatch from Budapest reports that the Hungarian Soviet Government has sent a delegation to Berlin to conclude a treaty of alliance against the Entente allies, and that German officers have undertaken the reorganization of the Hungarian army.

This report accepted at its face value could be taken to mean an effort of the Bolshevik Government at Budapest to strengthen itself by a Central European alliance that would constitute a formidable obstacle to the enforcement of unfavorable peace terms by the Paris Conference. It would be a revival in a weakened form of the old compact of the Central Powers and would erect a barrier between western Europe and Russia from the North Sea to the Balkans.

Such an alliance would no doubt be favored by Hungary, and its inception either as a treaty to be actually carried out or as a measure to force more liberal terms from the Peace Conference would do credit to the shrewd Magyar politicians who formerly succeeded in dominating the affairs of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. Hungary, as delimited, will suffer as severely as Austria in the loss of territory. With the cutting away of the Jugo-Slav provinces on the east, of Slovakia on the north and of Transylvania and the Banat on the south, Hungary comes out of the war with scarcely more than the Danube plains and the original Magyar territory of central Hungary. This means the loss of more than half of her former area, and a territory not much greater in extent than the State of New York. It means a Magyar land surrounded by Slav nations that give promise of growing in strength and power. It was the struggle against these conditions that KAROLYI declared, forced the retirement of his Government and brought on the rule of Bolshevism.

The proposal or the threat, however it may be, of an alliance with Germany becomes thus naturally a

weapon in the hands of the Budapest Bolsheviks. But there are reasons which make it doubtful of acceptance by the present Government in Germany, even with the additional advantage of a German trained Hunarian army. Germany would not likely to find Hungary as it now exists of any assistance to her plans; she would find rather that she was drawn into an alliance in which the burden of the responsibility would be upon herself. She has troubles enough in protecting herself without undertaking to aid the Magyars in saving their territory. Again, the present German Government would increase its own Bolshevik peril by strengthening the position of a Bolshevik government in Central Europe.

The proposed alliance is thus likely to advance little further than its present stage. The only case in which it might assume a serious character would be that of the surrender of Germany to the Bolsheviks. But as a piece of strategy to force concessions at Paris it seems to have proved a failure. Its effect has been rather to cast a measure of doubt upon the seriousness of the whole revolutionary movement at Budapest.

Edels of the Air.

The expected best, or worst, as one regards it, has arrived in airplanes; a runabout which can land on almost any flat roof, in vacant lots, on any old road, and is to be sold at a price within the reach of all who have the price. It will bring joy rides to those who like that sort of thing, and rage and apprehension to those who do not. The inventor, Captain D'ANNUNZIO, son of a distinguished father, the flying post, assures us that the little pet, or pest, as you like, which has a wing spread of only twenty feet, can travel for two and a half hours without having to land for gas, and cover in that flight 125 miles.

This will revolutionize everything, nearly. Commuters' trains will, of course, be abandoned to other forms of live stock than bored business men; week enders will sell their automobiles for a song, if anybody will sing for a conveyance subject to the whims of traffic cops; messengers of all sorts will desert their out-fashioned engines of locomotion, and scurry on their ways through cloudland; golfers will read their Sunday papers up to within one or two minutes of the scheduled starting time for their morning game on mile away links and land at the first tee ready to drive off on time.

On the other hand, those who cannot or will not use these Edels of the air will suffer much. Women clerks who now at lunch hour choose skyscraper roofs for a session with HENRY JAMES or O. HENRY will find their tiled heights all a-flutter with D'ANNUNZIO'S latest creation; vacant lots, where Bakers, Schupps, Johnsons—aye, McGraws—have ever been made, will be nesting and resting places for countless gas contraptions; quiet lanes of urban parks where sweethearts stroll will know their soft whisperings no more, but echo with the whirring and chugging of flocks of landing and starting aerial runabouts.

Ever more and more perplexing becomes the problem, "What on earth is this world coming to?"

The Hunting of Spies.

Attorney-General PALMER retired from active service a body of vigilant helpers when in his statement issued on Monday at Washington he said that the Department of Justice will endeavor to enforce the laws without the aid of any private organization, "volunteer or otherwise."

This decision, however, need not crush the hopes of budding detectives or amateur "leuths." "The department welcomes at all times information which may be germane to its work," says the Attorney-General.

The amateur may thus go on hunting spies in the most approved form of the modern melodrama, and he can follow a trail wherever it leads. But now he does so on his own hook and at his own peril.

Here is a correspondent who thinks that somebody is luckier than the doughboy:

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy is lucky. His Washington job is waiting for him when he comes back."

New York, April 1.

It is quite possible that the truth of this remark about the awaiting job depends upon the date of the Commander-in-Chief's coming back.

It is not the reasons for the defeat of daylight saving which the Canadian Government must now concern itself with but rather the problem of running a nation divided on the time system. The agricultural classes of Canada opposed, as American farmers agitated against, the changing of time, summer and winter, and they were successful in the Legislature. The daylight saving bill was limited to one year's trial, and therefore went out of effect immediately. But Canadian railroads and a large body of the Dominion's citizens decided to live by the time in vogue in these States. That this step is almost absolutely necessary for the railroads because of their close relations with the American lines is perfectly apparent. Yet Sir HENRY DUNN, Chief of the Dominion Railroad Commission, has already demanded an explanation of the change in time schedules made by the railroads independently.

Here for the loan campaign, the celebrated cannon that succeeded in making Paris temporarily dig in may inspire a good many Americans to dig down, deep!

Brigadier-General WILSON P. RICHMOND, who has been assigned by General PERHENS to the command of the American forces in northern Russia, would seem to have unusual qualifications for the post. To years of active army service in the West and

Southwest he adds almost twenty years of service in our furthest north possession. For twelve of these years he has been at the head of the road commission for Alaska, charged with the construction of wagon roads and trails under the Secretary of War. By this long experience he is peculiarly fitted for the care and transportation of troops in a cold climate. Besides, RICHMOND'S presence may have a wholesome effect in north Russian Bolshevik circles; he is one of the biggest men of the army and a giant in muscle and strength.

OLD NEW YORK.

Information About Target Companies.

Given for the Benefit of the Maker of the New Valentine's Manual.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: In answer to Mr. Henry Collins Brown, I beg to say that I remember the old target companies of the West side very well. I was born in "Old Chelsea" and resided in that section of the city for fifty years.

The companies that I recollect were the Chelsea Guards, the Maseppa Guards, the Wrentham Rangers and the Hound Guards, fantastic. The companies paraded around the neighborhood, stopped at the residences of prominent politicians, who presented them with prizes, such as water pitchers, cake baskets, mugs, knives and forks, etc., then became invited guests and marched with the company. After parading for about two hours we took the boat from the foot of Twenty-second Street, North River, and sailed up the Hudson to Bull's Ferry, where shooting at the target took place and prizes were presented to the best marksmen, after which a good dinner was eaten and the company returned to the city. The affair generally ended with a ball, either at Knickerbocker Hall or Miller's Hall. The target was always carried by a negro. A good time was had by all who participated.

On election night the boys were given the ballot booths, which were used at that time, gathered up all the barrels they could collect and had a grand bonfire. The target was always carried by a negro. A good time was had by all who participated.

Edwin H. VAN DYKEN.

New York, March 31.

Let the Next Congress Take Warning!

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I have been following hopefully the discussion as to the possible power of Congress, while not in session, to call itself together, but your editorial article of March 31 seems to dash any hopes that such a thing could be accomplished. There is no doubt that the next Congress will provide against a recurrence of the present lamentable situation during its life, but as a safeguard for the future do you not consider this an opportunity to suggest the adoption of a suitable amendment to the Constitution giving Congress this power, which is enjoyed by the board of directors of every golf club?

LOUIS M. FANNING.

WHITESTONE, N. Y., April 1.

The Great April Snowstorm of 1840.

From the Patchogue Advance.
Ex-Sheriff Cooper of Riverhead, the ninety-year-old youth whose blood is as young as that of a man of forty years, and whose memory is a marvel, told a Patchogue Advance writer that in 1840 on the 11th and 12th of April, a snow storm fell three feet of snow on the level in the woods about Riverhead, where it could not drift. It snowed two days and two nights. He says he knows, because he was in it and saw it. Let us hope Mr. Cooper's history will not repeat itself now.

Hans Christian Andersen's Birthday.

As the shadows grow long, and the light fades away,
Strange sights all about me appear,
Weird figures by, and right merrily play,
And fairyland seems very near.

The "Old Church" with its sweet, rich sound,
Calls "The Lovers" to head its tone;
The "Jewell" on "The Elf" still hums,
"Something" brings from the "Old Graves."

"Little Talk" and "The Shepherdess" in the Duck Yard.

Run to meet "The Puppet Showman,"
While "Grandmother" finds her "Tinder Box" charmed,
Tries to hide her "Great Grief" if she can.

The "Hardy Tin Soldier" selects for his mate
"The Littlest Soldier in the World."

Neath "The Old Street Lamp" to settle their fate,
"The Goggles of Fortune" are hurled.

"The Ugly Duckling" steals "The Last Pearl."

In "The Shirt Collar" deftly to place,
While "The Girl Who Trod on the Loaf" gives a curl.

"The Old Bachelor's Nightcap" to grace
The "Neighboring Families" gather the "Flax."

That "The Darning Needle" be used,
While "Great Claus and Little Claus" their patience tax.

Let "The Little Match Girl" be abused,
"What the Old Man Does is Always Right."

So "The Children's Prattle" declares,
Though the "Fighting Tank" which he brought them last night,
Of "The Red Shoes" contained but two pairs.

"The Farmyard Cock and the Weather Cock"
Both picked "Five Out of One Shell,"
While "The Nightingale" all "The Storke's" say.

As "In a Snow Storm" the "Snow Queen" he'd tell,
Would you know why to me all these strange ideas appeared?
The "Fairy Tale Prince" has his birthday to-day!

His magic ring many thousands have cherished,
And chased gloom and sorrow away.

For though he was honored with monarchs as friends,
No simpler man could be found,
Though his fame throughout every country and age,
In the hearts of all children he's bound.

In fairy tales, fables and elf;
Yes, there's truth in them all, if his words are but true,
"The Wonderful Fairy Tale is Life Itself!"

CLARA ALPHEA.

A Full Overlooked.

The Man in the Moon complained,
"I have a lot to do with the sea, yet they never even asked me into their league," he cried.

A Prohibition Godsend.

Venus emerged from the foam.
"It is only water," she hastened to explain.

CAN CONGRESS MEET ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE?

A Suggestion Based on the Constitution's Use of "Shall" and "May."

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: You answer the inquiry of a correspondent as to the power of Congress to meet in special session on its own initiative by saying, "Congress not in session cannot call itself together."

You reach this conclusion after pointing out (a) that Article I, section 4, of the Constitution provides peremptorily for at least one annual meeting of Congress and tentatively fixes a date for such session, which, however, is subject to modification by Congress, and (b) that Article II, section 3, gives to the President power on extraordinary occasions to convene Congress, or either house. These are the only provisions directly bearing on the question, and you conclude from them that, while Congress has the power by law to appoint any date it pleases at which it shall convene, if it adjourn without having provided such date it is helpless. It must then wait for the regular annual session or for the call of the President.

Does this condition necessarily follow? I will not venture to answer either way, but I doubt that the question is one that yet remains open for discussion.

There is nothing in the debates of the convention of 1787 that would support the conclusion, to which you reluctantly but definitely come, that only by act of the President can the present Congress convene on the next day.

The annual session was largely agreed to in the convention, against the objection that there might not be sufficient business to warrant so regular a sitting, on the very grounds that "the legislature, besides legislative, is to have inquisitorial powers, which cannot safely be long kept in a state of suspension" (Madison).

With this feeling in the convention it is to be expected that the Constitution would place in the executive department of the President, particularly in such a case as the present, where the outgoing Democratic Congress would naturally not provide by law for an early session of its Republican successor—the calling of Congress in extraordinary session? Did it in fact do so?

Article II, section 3, reads as follows:

He shall from time to time give to the Congress information of the state of the Union, and recommend to them such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary occasions, convene both Houses, or either House, on such day as he may think proper, he may adjourn them to such time as he may think proper, he shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed, and shall commission all officers of the United States.

The italics make my point: If the President "shall" receive ambassadors, commission officers, etc., he must do so, and he alone can do so. But if he "may" on extraordinary occasions convene Congress, does it necessarily follow that he alone can determine the existence of extraordinary occasions, that Congress cannot under any circumstances call itself together?

The "may" in the Constitution is used throughout the section, save in one sentence dealing with sessions of Congress where "may" is used. That the convention, in considering this article, was particularly alive to the difference between imperative and exclusive "shall" is not only apparent from the fact that, whereas the committee on the fact reported this section reading in part "he may recommend to the Congress such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may convene them on extraordinary occasions," the committee on the final report of the Convention changed the word "may" to "shall" (August 24, 1787). In order to make it the duty of the President to recommend, and thence prevent umbrage or cavil at his doing it.

Had it been suggested to the convention that Congress could not meet, for the fighting on the whole front of the article, at the discretion of the President, there would have been at least a little discussion of the clause giving the President the power to call extraordinary sessions. There was none; save for a dispute as to the form, "both houses, or either of them," the clause raised no ripple of discussion or protest, and the first "may" to "shall" (August 24, 1787). In order to make it the duty of the President to recommend, and thence prevent umbrage or cavil at his doing it.

The suggestion above made, that the discretionary "may," used in Article II, section 3, is of importance as perhaps indicating the purpose not to make the power a discretion thereby conferred exclusively, so that Congress could not itself exercise such power if the President did not, is not made at random. We are all familiar with instances where "may" is given the meaning of "must" or "shall," in statutes, in order to give effect to the legislative intent. But this is not such a case. Rather does it resemble the case which arose under the Constitution of Utah, providing that certain Judges "shall be conservators of the peace and may hold preliminary examinations." A prisoner, whose examination had been held before another court, created by statute, contended on appeal against the constitutional validity of the statute, claiming that the Constitution vested in the Judges the right of examinations in the Judges named by it. The Utah court refused, however, to give "may" the exclusive meaning, saying:

"It is evident that the words 'shall' and 'may' are used advisedly, and each to be understood in its usual and ordinary sense. 'Shall' is held imperative; 'may' imports an authority, but does not impose a positive duty. So that 'may' was not exclusive; the authority and duty could reside elsewhere. (State vs. Shookley, 29 Utah 28; 80 Pac. 685; 110 A. S. 639.)

I am aware that the question whether a Congress which has severed and which no law calls together can meet 'on its own' has ever been raised. Apparently there has been a tacit assumption that only the call of the Executive could bring it to life as an assembly. The Senate and House debates of December, 1857, and January, 1858, on a bill calling the new Congress to meet on March 4, 1858, it was frankly urged by the bill's proponents that its passage was necessary since otherwise the new Congress could not organize or convene for nine months; unless called by the President, Andrew Johnson, who was not likely to call an extraordinary session and at whom, of course, the bill was aimed. In this case one Republican House provided for the early sitting of its successor of similar

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 31.

Foreign Banks in New York.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: One sees the statement every now and again that New York is to become the financial center of the world, and this idea has been largely prevalent since the war. In the war, but the point is, because they felt in their sensations, they have experienced the terror and fear and agony of war and have known the anarchy of suffering. They are now in the world. I claim, my friends, that we are not hold enough in the defense of our own Government, that we have a permanent memorial in the form of a triumphal arch would perpetuate the heroism of the soldiers, but the practical part of the returning soldier. Our first duty to them and their future. It would fall to strike the keynote if we did not turn to you employers in all lines of industry and in various professions, and again urge that you should not only restore the returning soldier his job, but, if possible, offer him a better job, because in most instances he is a better man.

GOV. EDGE SELLS HIS PAPERS.

He Retains No Interest in New Publishing Company.

TRENTON, N. J., April 1.—The sale of his two Atlantic City newspapers, the Daily Press and the Evening Union, the late of which was edited and managed for a time by Governor Edge, was announced to-day by Gov. Walter E. Edge, Senator elect, when the new ownership was taken over by the Atlantic City Photo Engraving Company, for \$140,000.

Gov. Edge said that he had determined some time ago, in view of his enlarged public interests, to dispose of the papers and that he does not hold stock in the new company. Albert J. Fey is president, Paul J. O'Neill, former in charge of Gov. Edge's advertising interests, is secretary and treasurer, and Frank C. Crawford, former editor of the Press and secretary to the Governor, is vice-president. Gov. Edge said he was glad to turn the papers over to young men who had been identified with the publications for years.

ORANGE, N. J., April 1.

It was easy then to concede that only the President could call an extraordinary session, unless a law were passed for such session, when that concession was itself the best argument for the passage of the law.

The present situation is vastly different. The Congress of 1919 may not consider itself estopped by the admissions of 1857, when such estoppel would leave it helpless. There are difficulties in a scattered body, headless, moreover, getting together; still, the constitutional provision that a majority of each house constitutes a quorum points the way.

Is there any doubt on the point, or have I raised a will-o'-the-wisp to give vain comfort to your correspondent?
CHAMUNCEY S. GOODRICH.
New York, April 1.

MARKET NEWS FOR FARMS.

Agricultural Bulletins Issued by the Railroad Administration.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: In your editorial article of March 28 about railway marketing bulletins, you have touched on one of the most important problems which will face the farmers of this country in the future. It would seem that the agricultural departments of the railroads can be of special assistance.

I would like to point out, however, that the railway marketing bulletins to which you refer are gotten out by the agricultural representatives of the United States Railroad Administration, instead of by agricultural supervisors retained by the railroad corporations.

In addition to the Union Pacific, Denver and Rio Grande and St. Louis and San Francisco, there are several other lines of the Railroad Administration which are issuing marketing bulletins and which find them very valuable. In some of the States the marketing bulletins are issued by the State authorities, and the Railroad Administration is cooperating with them in furnishing information, distributing bulletins and otherwise.

The agricultural section of the division of traffic of the Railroad Administration was organized last July for the purpose of giving attention to the transportation of agricultural products and their encouragement. During the war the activities of the railroad agricultural agents were directed more to helping in the food production campaign than in development work. Now we are going ahead actively, not only in the West and South but on some of the most important Eastern routes in cooperation with the Federal and State agricultural organizations, looking to the greater development of the agricultural resources of the nation.

According to information which comes to us from all over the country the business of farming, both as to methods of the work and conditions on the farms. In order to achieve the best results the cooperation of all who are interested in the subject should be had. The fighting on the whole front of the article, at the discretion of the President, there would have been at least a little discussion of the clause giving the President the power to call extraordinary sessions. There was none; save for a dispute as to the form, "both houses, or either of them," the clause raised no ripple of discussion or protest, and the first "may" to "shall" (August 24, 1787). In order to make it the duty of the President to recommend, and thence prevent umbrage or cavil at his doing it.